



State of Connecticut

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Testimony

Senate Minority Leader Len Fasano

GAE Public Hearing

March 7, 2016

HB 5497 An Act Requiring a Publicly Accessible List of Legislatively Appointed Boards, Commissions and Councils

Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan and Representative Smith, thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 5497 An Act Requiring a Publicly Accessible List of Legislatively Appointed Boards, Commissions and Councils.

This commonsense legislation would increase transparency and information flow by requiring a centralized, publicly accessible list of all bodies created by the state to address, investigate and develop public policy.

Our state has a great many groups designated with core responsibilities to serve our state. These commissions, councils and boards are developed to help our state innovate and study multiple areas of interest to the people of Connecticut.

Over time, our state has accumulated a great many of these legislatively appointed bodies. However, we lack an up to date central source to which we can go to find a list of all these groups and appointments. To aid lawmakers in overseeing these groups, and to keep the public informed as to what these appointed committees are intended to address and who serves on them, a central list available on the Internet web site of the General Assembly would be very helpful.

This legislation would require a list to include names of all the members of each legislatively appointed group, who made the appointment of each individual, and whether there are any vacancies on the board, commission or council. These lists would be required to be updated at least quarterly.

I urge support for this measure to enhance transparency and open government.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Len Fasano".

Len Fasano
Senate Minority Leader